Episode 27: Erwin Smith

KH ...!

SNAP

SNAP

MM...

MM ...

SNAP

SNAP

SNAP

IN A FEW MIN-UTES ...

BUT ...

?

IF IT MAKES IT THIS FAR, MAYBE I'LL GET OUT OF ITS WAY.

SO IT IS.

UH... IT'S CLIMB-ING UP HERE.

...IT'S GOT SOMETHING TO DO WITH THOSE EXPLOSIONS INSIDE THE FOREST?

YOU THINK ...

WHOOM

WHOOM

I THINK WE'LL BE ORDERED TO PULL OUT.

ARE THEY FIRING CANNONS **INSIDE** THE FOREST?

WHAT DO YOU THINK THOSE SOUNDS ARE?

MI-KASA ...

...

I DIDN'T NOTICE ANY CANNONS IN OUR CARGO...

WHOOOOM

WHAT ARE THEY DOING OVER THERE?

SORRY... I DON'T.

HEY, BERTOLT, DO YOU KNOW WHERE KRISTA WENT?

SO DAMN NOISY BACK THERE...

I WANT TO GO HOME ...

WHY ARE WE HERE? AND WHAT'RE WE DOING?

WHOOOOM

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON.

BASTARD... LOOKS LIKE IT'S FIGURED IT OUT...

RIGHT!

LET'S MOVE, ARMIN!

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IT'S TURNING INTO QUITE A TREE-CLIMBER!

THEN IT HAS THE CAPACITY TO LEARN... THAT'S SCARY.

CREAK

CREAK

WOOSH

WOOSH

...AND IT JUST HIT ME WHAT IT PROBABLY IS.

!

THEY'RE OBVIOUSLY DOING SOMETHING DEEP IN THE FOREST...

HEY, ARMIN ...

THUMP スタッ

THOUGH I'M SURE IT DEPENDS ON THE INDIVI-DUAL.

THAT'S THE ONLY REASON I CAN THINK OF FOR WHY THEY ONLY TOLD CERTAIN SOLDIERS ABOUT THIS OPERATION.

...

WE LURED THAT FEMALE TITAN HERE SO WE COULD CAPTURE IT, I BET.

...THERE ARE **HUMANS** IN OUR RANKS WHO ARE TRYING TO DESTROY THE WALLS?

BUT DOES THAT MEAN ...

CREAK CREAK

I THINK...THE COMMANDER IS CERTAIN OF THAT.

YES... I THINK SO.

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THEN THE FIRST THING WE MUST DO IS IDENTIFY THEM, TO PREVENT ANY FURTHER DAMAGE TO THE WALLS.

SO IF WE ASSUME THAT THE TITANS TRYING TO DESTROY THE WALLS ARE **HUMANS**...AND THAT THEY'RE **INSIDE** THE WALLS...

EREN'S EXISTENCE SUGGESTS THAT HUMANS MAY BE CONTROLLING THE TITANS.

...THAT THE SURVEY CORPS HAS LONGED FOR- **THE TRUTH BEHIND THIS WORLD!**

...WE MIGHT EXPECT TO GAIN THE INFORMA-TION...

FURTHER-MORE... IF WE COULD CAPTURE THEM...

...HOW WAS THE COMMANDER SO SURE THAT TITANS WOULD COME AFTER EREN IF HE WENT OUTSIDE THE WALL?

BUT ...

...IT'S BECAUSE THEIR LATEST INCURSION DIDN'T COMPLETELY DESTROY THE WALL.

I THINK ...

WITH EREN AS BAIT, HUH?

...MEAN SHE'S FALLEN INTO THE TRAP.

THOSE SOUNDS...

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SURELY THEIR OBJECTIVE WOULD HAVE BEEN TO DESTROY THE INNER GATE OF WALL ROSE...

FOR SOME REASON, THEY SUDDENLY HALTED THEIR ATTACK.

HUH?

PERHAPS SOMETHING DIVERTED THEIR ATTENTION.

THEY DID NOTHING WHEN THE GATE THEY HAD GONE TO SO MUCH TROUBLE TO DESTROY WAS REPAIRED.

THEY STOPPED FOR A **REASON.**

THE ONLY THING I CAN THINK OF WOULD BE EREN TURNING INTO A TITAN AND GOING ON A RAMPAGE.

SOMETHING ELSE THAT HAPPENED AT THE TIME, SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN DESTROYING THE WALL...

...IS A SPY?

...ONE OF THE PEOPLE WHO KNEW ABOUT EREN'S TRANS-FORMATION AT THAT TIME...

...UM ...YOU MEAN...

THEN ...

...

ONE OF...

THE PEOPLE ...

FWOOO

EVEN IF WE DON'T KNOW WHERE THE SPY IS...

BUT I STILL DON'T GET IT.

...SHOULDN'T AT LEAST A FEW MORE SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN TOLD ABOUT THIS OPERATION?

THERE HAD TO BE SOME WHO WOULDN'T HAVE DIED IF THEY'D KNOWN THAT THE TITAN WAS INTELLIGENT...

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...HOW COULD THEY KEEP EVEN SEASONED VETERANS OF THE CORPS IN THE DARK?

SHUT UP, WOULD YA?

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY? THAT THE COMMANDER AND CAPTAIN DON'T TRUST US?!

N- NO... BUT...

GRR...

PETRA! RIP OUT THAT GUY'S TEETH!

THEN SHOVE THEM BACK IN BACK-WARDS!

...THAT'S WHAT IT AMOUNTS TO!

SETTING ASIDE ROOKIES LIKE US...

...WERE THE SURVIVORS FROM FIVE YEARS AGO.

I THINK THE ONLY ONES WHO KNEW...

BUT THINK ABOUT IT. THAT TRAP WOULDN'T HAVE WORKED WITHOUT QUITE A FEW PEOPLE KNOWING ABOUT IT BEFORE-HAND.

RIGHT! THEY HAD TO DO IT THAT WAY.

I GET IT. YEAH, THAT HAS TO BE IT. SEE, EREN? THAT'S WHAT IT IS.

OR, I'D LIKE TO THINK THAT.

FIVE YEARS ...

IS THERE REALLY A SPY?

SO THE COMMANDER NARROWED DOWN THE SUSPECTS TO ANYONE WHO JOINED AFTER THAT.

THEY MUST HAVE ASSUMED THAT THE SPY STARTED WORKING ON THE "INSIDE" WHEN THE WALL WAS DESTROYED, FIVE YEARS AGO...

OH ...!

THAT'S WHEN THE COMMANDER ASKED ME THAT QUESTION...

... KILLED SONNY AND BEAN.

I WONDER IF THAT'S WHO...

SO THAT'S WHAT THAT WAS ABOUT...

HE ASKED ME TOO.

WHO DO YOU THINK THE ENEMY IS?

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

YOU GUYS KNOW WHY?

HEY, I KNEW THE ANSWER! IT'S JUST... I DIDN'T DARE SAY IT.

...THOUGH I DON'T THINK ANY OF US COULD HAVE.

MAYBE IF WE'D BEEN ABLE TO ANSWER, HE'D HAVE LET US WORK ON THE REAL MISSION...

IT'S BECAUSE NONE OF YOU CAN COMPARE TO ME.

WHY DO YOU THINK YOU DON'T KNOW?

WELL, AT YOUR LEVEL I'M NOT SURPRISED ...

WHAT, YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW?

...

...WHY ?

...TOO MANY PEOPLE DIED.

BECAUSE CAPTAIN LEVI DOESN'T TALK LIKE THAT.

BUT... EVEN IF THAT WAS THE PURPOSE ...

YOU STILL TRYING TO IMITATE THE CAPTAIN?

I'LL BE AMAZED IF THIS SUC-CEEDS.

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WHUD

IF THEY'D ALREADY KNOWN ABOUT THAT TITAN...

...!

EVEN YOUR SQUAD LEADER WAS CAUGHT OFF GUARD...

...THE RESPONSE WOULD'VE BEEN DIFFER-ENT.

HE WAS RIGHT.

NO ...

AND THIS IS MY BELOVED HORSE, CHARLOTTE! GOOD TO KNOW YA!

I'M YOUR SQUAD LEADER, NESS!

JEAN...

IT'S EASY TO WAIT AND SAY, "THEY SHOULD'VE DONE THIS."

ANYBODY CAN MAKE A CHOICE AFTER FINDING OUT THE RESULTS.

HOW MANY SOLDIERS DO YOU THINK DIED FOR NOTHING?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, HE WAS RIGHT?

HUH?

WHAT HAVE THEY FOUND OUT?

WHAT DO THEY KNOW?

WHAT CAN THEY DO?

HOW MANY OF THEM ARE THERE?

WHAT'S THAT TITAN'S IDENTITY?

BUT YOU CAN'T KNOW WHAT THE RESULTS WILL BE BEFORE MAKING THE CHOICE.

THE TIME TO MAKE A CHOICE ALWAYS COMES, EVEN WHEN WE DON'T KNOW THE OUTCOME!

BUT THE FLOW OF TIME WON'T STOP FOR US!

WE DON'T KNOW! AS ALWAYS, THERE'S SO MUCH WE JUST DON'T KNOW!

THE COMMANDER MAY BE A CRUEL, EVEN EVIL, MAN... BUT I... I THINK THAT'S **GOOD.**

NO MATTER HOW GOOD THE RESULTS ARE... IT DOESN'T ERASE THE SENSELESS DEATHS OF THOSE SOLDIERS.

I THINK IT'S USEFUL AND CORRECT.

I'VE HEARD THE PHRASE "OUTCOME ACCOUNT-ABILITY."

...AND THOSE OF HUMANITY, BEHIND THE WALLS...

BETWEEN THE LIVES OF 100 OF US...

...AND MAKE A CHOICE.

EVEN IF IT PUTS HIS COMRADES' LIVES IN DANGER, HE HAS TO ENVISION EVERY POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT...

...HE HAD TO CHOOSE.

AND HE CHOSE TO **WRITE OFF** THOSE HUNDRED LIVES.

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WHY ERWIN SMITH LEADS THE HOPE OF HUMANKIND, THE SURVEY CORPS.

...BUT YOU'LL PROBABLY FIND OUT SOON...

EREN... YOU DON'T KNOW IT YET...

THAT'S IF YOU LIVE LONG ENOUGH...

I'M SURE CAPTAIN LEVI TRUSTS YOU ENOUGH TO TELL YOU.

THE PEOPLE CAPABLE OF CHANGING THINGS...

...BUT THERE'S ONE THING I'M SURE OF.

I HAVEN'T LIVED AN ESPECIALLY LONG LIFE...

...WHO CAN...

...ARE THE ONES...

...THROW AWAY EVERYTHING DEAR TO THEM.

WHEN FORCED TO FACE DOWN MONSTERS...

...THEY CAN EVEN LEAVE BEHIND THEIR HUMANITY.

SOMEONE WHO CAN'T THROW ANYTHING AWAY...

...WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO CHANGE ANYTHING.

WHOOM

HMPH !!

WHOOM

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS...

FWISH

FWISH

FWISH

...THE MORE YOUR WOUNDS CLOSE UP, THE MORE RIGID YOUR JOINTS BECOME!

FWISH FWISH

HOW ABOUT THAT? NOW YOU WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO SCRATCH YOURSELF IF YOU'VE GOT AN ITCH!

NOT A SINGLE MUSCLE OF YOURS WILL EVER MOVE AGAIN, PROBABLY!

SWOOSH

SWOOSH

WHAT ARE LEVI AND MIKE DOING...?

BUT IT SEEMS ...

...THAT'S STILL NOT ENOUGH TO GET THE ONE INSIDE TO COME OUT.

FWWO

TWITCH

KRKKK

KRKKK

KKRKK

KRKKK

KKRKK

KRKKK

KRKKK

KRKKK

CLANG

CLANG

Manga Flip

WHIZZZ

KRRKK

KRRKK

A CHARACTER-ISTIC THAT CLOSELY RESEMBLES THE SO-CALLED **ARMORED TITAN...**

LOOKS LIKE SHE CAN OVERLAY PART OF HER BODY WITH A TOUGH LAYER OF SKIN...

FWOOOO

BUT UNLIKE THE ARMORED TITAN, IT SEEMS SHE CAN'T MAINTAIN THAT TOUGHNESS...

WILL SHE WEAKEN IF WE KEEP ATTACKING HER WITH VERTICAL MANEUVERING GEAR AND SWORDS?

THERE'S NO TIME TO TEST IT.

CRUMBLE

THEREFORE...

CRUMBLE

SET A CHARGE AND BLOW OFF OUR TARGET'S HANDS.

ゲッ

BUT ...

YES, SIR.

YES, SIR?

THUD

THEN, AT MY SIGNAL, DETONATE ALL OF THE CHARGES SIMULTANE-OUSLY.

IN THAT CASE, TRY PLACING THE EXPLOSIVES FARTHER BACK SO THAT THEY SEVER HER WRISTS.

...THAT THE FORCE OF THE BLAST WILL ALSO BLOW UP THE PERSON INSIDE.

... THERE'S A CHANCE ...

WE DON'T HAVE ALL DAY.

HEY... WHY NOT GIVE US A BREAK AND JUST COME OUT OF THERE?

SWOOSH

ROG-ER!

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THINK ABOUT THE TROUBLE YOU'RE CAUSING.

NOW WE HAVE TO KEEP THINKING UP WAYS TO DRAG YOU OUT OF THERE.

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS GOING TO HAPPEN?

DO YOU BELIEVE YOU CAN FIND A WAY OUT OF THIS SITUATION?

DID YOU ENJOY IT?

YOU'VE MURDERED MY SUBORDINATES IN LOTS OF WAYS, HAVEN'T YOU?

BUT THEN, SO ARE YOU. RIGHT?

YOU CAN UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M SAYING, CAN'T YOU?

WELL, NOW **I'M** ENJOYING **THIS.**

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FWO

THERE'S ONE THING I WANT TO ASK YOU.

OH, RIGHT ...

...!

THEY'D GROW BACK, RIGHT?

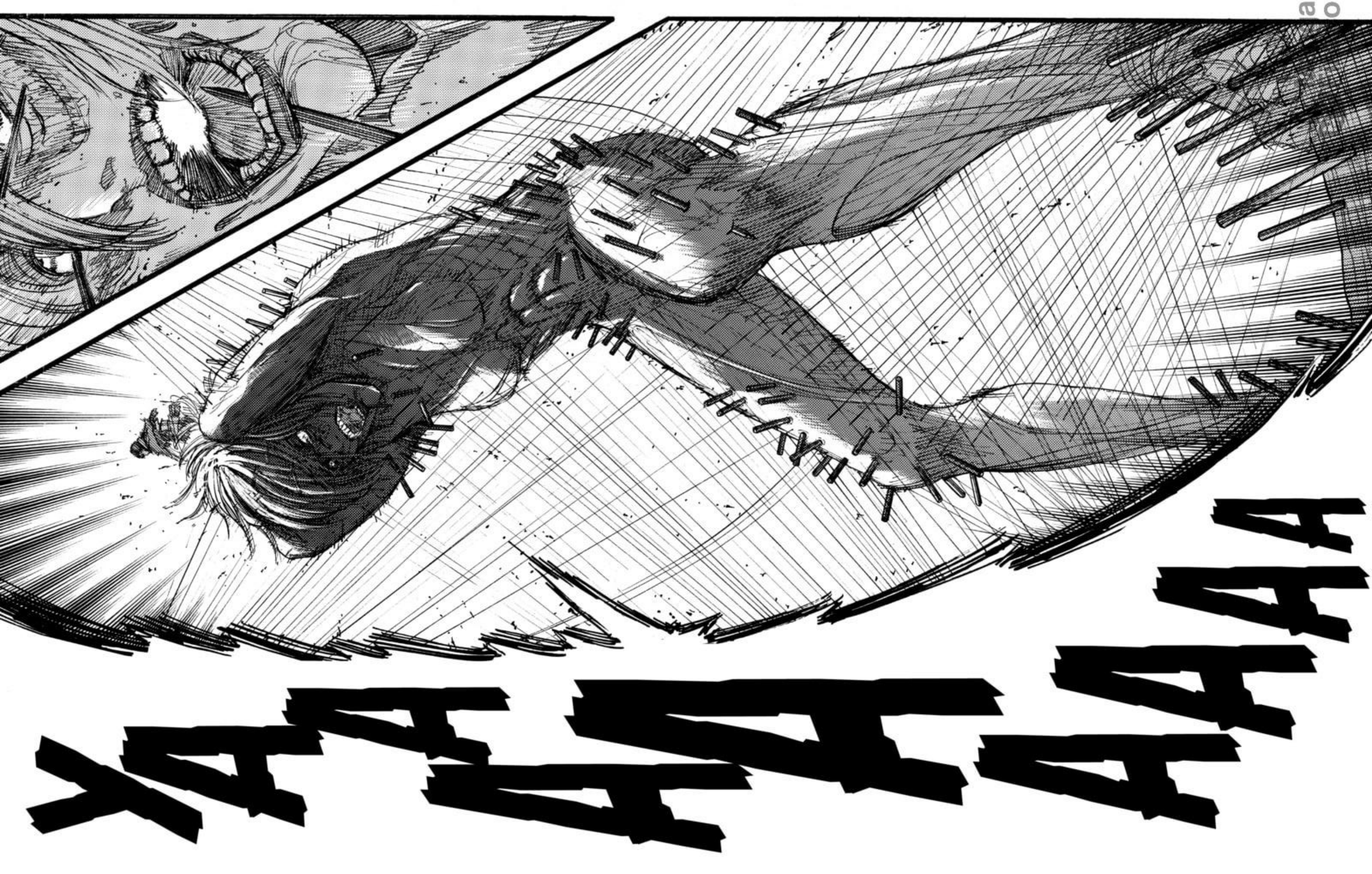
COULD WE CUT OFF YOUR LIMBS?

KHAHAHAHAHAHA

I'D GET IN TROUBLE IF YOU DIED, YOU SEE.

I'M TALKING ABOUT YOUR **REAL** BODY.

!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SHEESH... YOU REALLY STARTLED ME, THERE.

...

DAMNED...

WHAT WAS THAT, A DEATH RATTLE?

...

ヒクッ TWITCH

SNIFF

スーン SNIFF

...

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ERWIN!

THUD

OR DID SHE HAVE A REASON?

IF IT WAS, DOES THAT MEAN SHE'S GIVEN UP?

AN EMO-TIONAL CRY?

I SMELL 'EM COMING!

THERE'S A LOT, COMING FROM **ALL** DIREC-TIONS!

FROM WHAT DIREC-TION?

AT THE SAME TIME!

THEY'RE ...

WHAT ?!

HUH ?!

DUN DUN

DUN DUN

...ALL RUSHING INTO THE FOREST AT ONCE ?!

WHO CARES?! DON'T LET 'EM GO!!

SWISH

ARE THEY **ALL** ABNOR-MALS?!

...WHY ARE THEY SUDDENLY IGNORING US?!

DUN DUN DUN

FW

OO OO

ENGAGE!!

!

I'VE HEARD THAT SCREAM BEFORE!

BACK IN THE FOREST...

LISTEN TO ME, MIKASA!

WAIT!

...WHAT'S THIS?

SHAK

YOU MEAN YOUR HOMETOWN, SASHA?

IT'S THE SCREAM A CORNERED ANIMAL MAKES WHEN IT'S GIVEN UP...

IT'S EXACTLY THE SAME...

SO... YOU'RE SAYING, BE CAREFUL?

...?

I WAS TAUGHT YOU HAVE TO BE ON GUARD UNTIL THE VERY END OF THE HUNT!

IF YOU UNDER-ESTIMATE THE FOREST, YOU'LL DIE!!

PLEASE, A HUNDRED TIMES MORE THAN USUAL!

ACTUALLY... SASHA'S INSTINCTS ARE USUALLY CORRECT...

...OH ?

A GIRL WHO GREW VEGETABLES WOULDN'T UNDER-STAND!

YOU KNOW, I GREW UP IN THE MOUN-TAINS TOO...

グルルルルルルル

...EVEN IF ONLY WHEN SHE HAS A **BAD** FEELING...

I THINK THAT'S WHAT THEY SAID...

FW 00 00

ARMIN IS TOWARDS THE BACK OF THE CENTRAL COLUMN, AND EREN IS WITH THE WAGONS...

...

Manga Fire

FROM THE EAST FIRST! RIGHT THERE!

OO

ERWIN!

SET THE CHARGES **NOW!**

FWOO

OO

FWISH

TRANS-PORT ESCORT SQUAD!

INTERCEPT AND DESTROY!!

?!

FWOOOOOOOOOO

THREE TITANS HAVE BROKEN THROUGH!!

ARE THEY ABNOR-MALS?!

THEY'RE **IGNOR-ING** US?!

DUN DUN

DUN DUN

BAS-TARD ...

TAK TAK

HEY...

YOU DID SOMETHING BEFORE, DIDN'T YOU?

TAK

DUN

DUN DUN DUN

FWSH

CAPTAIN LEVI!!

SWEEEEEEEEE

THEY'RE AFTER THE FEMALE TITAN?!

CHOMP

?!

DUN DUN

DUN DUN

DON'T TELL ME...

DUN DUN

DUN DUN

DUN DUN

TITANS IN ALL DIRECTIONS !!

Manga Dire.to

?!

DEFEND THE FEMALE TITAN TO THE DEATH!!

ALL SQUADS, COM-MENCE ATTACK !!

FWISH!

ALL SQUADS, PULL BACK!

FWOOO

I NEVER THOUGHT...

THE ENEMY WAS PREPARED TO GIVE UP EVERYTHING.

FW OO OO OO OO

SNAP SNAP SNAP

SHE WOULD HAVE THE TITANS EAT HER...

CRUNCH

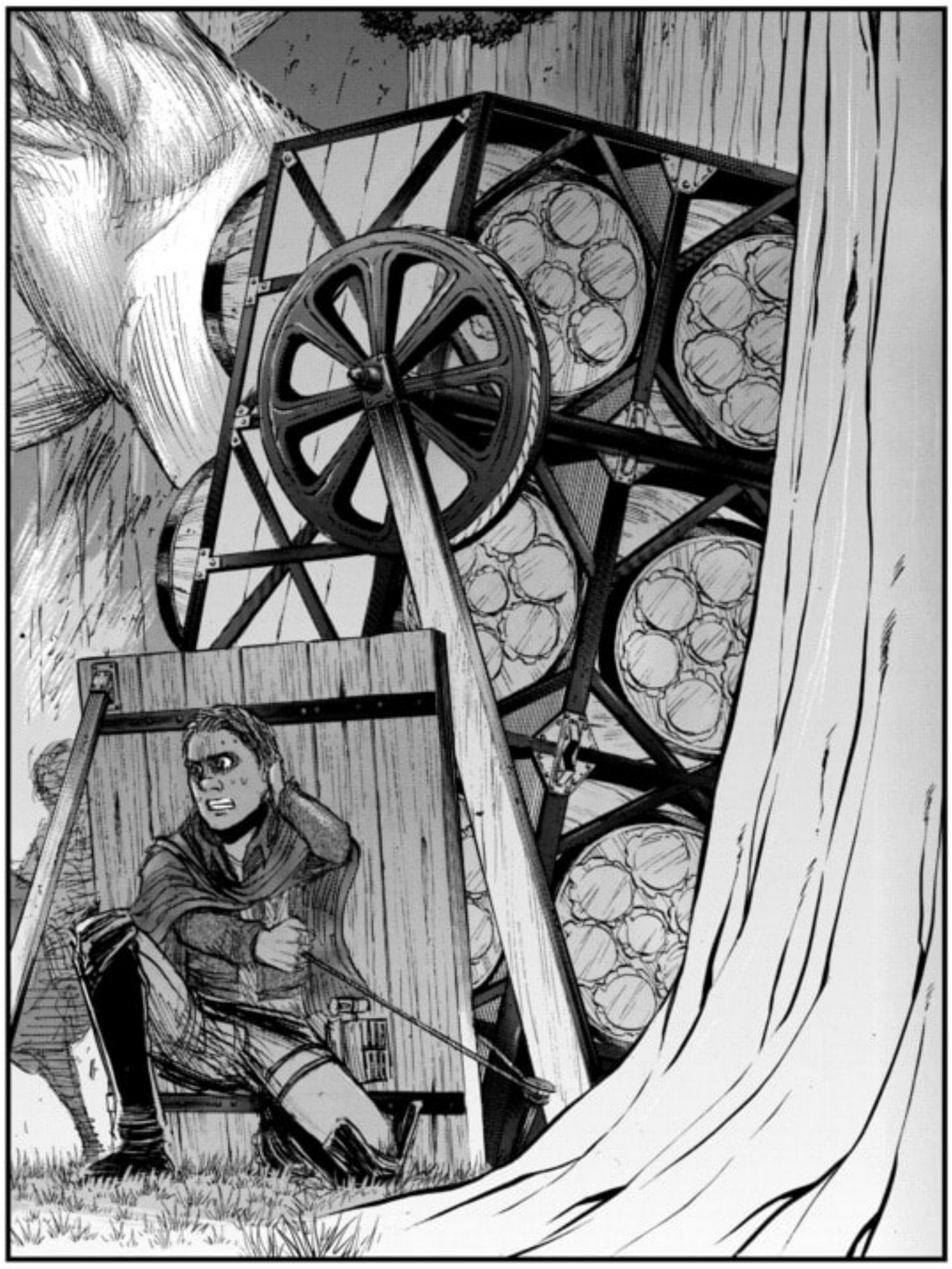
CRUNCH

TO ERASE ALL INFORMA-TION...

MangaFire.to

13. Special Target Restraining Weapons

THE SURVEY CORPS HAS DEVELOPED A NEW WEAPON IN ORDER TO RESTRAIN SPECIFIC TITANS. TO THE UNTRAINED EYE, IT LOOKS LIKE A NORMAL WAGON CARRYING BARRELS, BUT INSIDE EACH BARREL ARE SEVEN IRON TUBES CONTAINING COILED WIRES WITH ARROWHEADS ATTACHED AT BOTH ENDS.

THE WIRES ARE STRONG AND SPECIALLY MADE TO BECOME ELASTIC AFTER BEING EJECTED FROM THE BARRELS. WHEN THE DEVICE IS ACTIVATED, ARROWHEADS ARE FIRED FROM BOTH ENDS OF THE TUBES. THE ARROWHEADS ON ONE SIDE HEAD FOR THE TARGETED TITAN, WHILE THE ONES AT THE OTHER SIDE BECOME LODGED IN A TREE TRUNK, SO IF THE TIP PIERCES THE TITAN'S FLESH, IT'S POSSIBLE TO TETHER THE TITAN TO THE TREE WITH THE WIRE. THE PURPOSE OF THIS WEAPON IS TO IMMOBILIZE THE TARGET, ANCHORING IT WITH HUNDREDS OF ARROWHEADS FIRED FROM SEVERAL DIRECTIONS AND WIRES WITH GREAT TENSILE STRENGTH.

DEVELOPMENT OF THIS WEAPON REQUIRED A SIGNIFICANT CAPITAL OUTLAY, SO THE SURVEY CORPS HAD TO GUARANTEE POSITIVE RESULTS BEFORE INVESTORS WOULD CONTRIBUTE THE MONEY. TO THAT END, THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF THE SURVEY CORPS ITSELF IS AT LEAST PARTIALLY DEPENDENT ON THE RESULTS OF THEIR CURRENT MISSION.